In December 2018, the International Lawyers Assisting Workers (ILAW), a global network of union and worker rights lawyers and advocates, was established. Given that workers are confronting common legal issues worldwide and that increasingly, legal issues involve multiple jurisdictions, it is critical to the effective representation of workers and unions to unite legal practitioners and scholars to exchange information and ideas from around the world. The core mission of the ILAW Network is to facilitate information exchange and collaboration among its members, and to develop creative strategies to promote worker rights globally — through campaigns, policy analysis, litigation, and legislation. The ILAW Network has an independent advisory board of 21 union and worker rights lawyers from 20 different countries. Currently, it has over 650 members from 73 countries and continues to grow.

The ILAW Network offers numerous opportunities to share information, to learn, to collaborate and to strategize effectively in matters pertaining to the protection and expansion of worker rights, through in-person meetings, webinars, strategy sessions and a smartphone app. It is up to the members to decide what subjects most merit their attention. The issue areas in which the ILAW Network has focused so far include:

- Global Supply Chain Accountability
- Fissured Employment Relationship
- Informal Economy
- Migrant Worker Rights
- Employment Discrimination in All Its Forms
- Organizing and bargaining with Multinational Enterprises
- Trade Union Rights
- Public Sector Labor and Employment
- Occupational Safety and Health
- International Labor Organization
- Gender Based Violence & Harassment
- COVID-19
- Climate and Labor
- Trade Agreements

Given the global reach of the network, a dedicated online platform (www.ilawnetwork.com) and the smartphone app are the main points of interaction among members. Additionally, we have held an in-person members’ conference, and anticipate future in-person, virtual and hybrid regional and global convenings in the future. Currently, the website and its content are accessible in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian. It contains thousands of cases, reports and articles corresponding to our thematic areas, and news covering major legal developments around the world. The smartphone app is accessible on both iPhone and android devices and allows for members to connect based on areas of thematic interest, regional interest, and directly one-on-one.

The website offers:

- an online library for the sharing of relevant materials accessible by subject matter as well as geography
• a global directory of members' contact information and areas of expertise
• daily news on worker rights developments of importance and a calendar to announce upcoming events of potential interest

At the request of ILAW members, the Network has provided assistance in a number of country-specific cases and campaigns, including technical support on labor law reforms in South Korea, Ukraine, Morocco and the Maldives; litigation support in Colombia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Honduras, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, among others; amicus briefs before the high courts of Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Mexico, South Korea, Thailand, the United States and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and promotion of the ratification of ILO Convention 190.

ILAW has also launched a webinar series, drawing on the experiences of many members, to discuss and debate legal issues – from the right to strike to the rights of migrant workers – and have held practical online workshops on the effective use of the UN, the ILO and regional human rights commissions and courts.

ILAW has launched a biannual journal, the Global Labour Rights Reporter, that addresses worker rights-related legal issues of timely relevance. The Network is also engaged in several comparative research projects, including practical obstacles to the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws; wage theft affecting migrant workers; employment status litigation concerning digital platforms; availability of social protection for domestic workers; and the role of corporate law firms in anti-union organizing and bargaining campaigns, among others. It has also created a wiki-style database that will offer model legislation and supporting materials on key worker rights issues.

Members are currently supported by ILAW Regional Coordinators in the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe and will soon be adding staff in Asia. The ILAW Regional Coordinators allow the Network to develop deeper and stronger relationships with its members in each region, respond to issues more quickly, and extend the reach of ILAW.

All lawyers who represent or support workers in their practices are eligible to join ILAW; only those who represent employers against the interests of workers are not invited to belong. Dues levels are modest and tied to ability to pay. The rates for individuals are below. Organizational memberships are also available.

- $50 per year (ILAW members in non-OECD countries)
- $100 per year (ILAW members in OECD countries)
- $250 per year (Solidarity rate is encouraged for those who can afford to pay)

If an interested lawyer is unable to pay the dues at this time, waivers are available upon request.

In view of the increasingly global nature of work and the common trends that affect workers regardless of nationality, a global legal network is needed now more than ever. We urge you to

International Lawyers Assisting Workers Network
c/o Solidarity Center
1130 Connecticut Ave, NW, 8th Floor
Washington DC, 20036
become a member of ILAW, today. For more information, see the ILAW website (www.ilawnetwork.com), or contact the ILAW Network through:

- Jeffrey Vogt, Director: jvogt@solidaritycenter.org
- Jon Hiatt, Senior Advisor: jhiatt@solidaritycenter.org
- Monika Mehta, Senior Program Officer: mmehta@solidaritycenter.org or +001 202-894-3067
- Matt Hersey, Program Officer: mhersey@solidaritycenter.org
- Mery Laura Perdomo, ILAW Regional Coordinator, Americas: mperdomo@ilawnetwork.com
- Jacqueline Wamai, ILAW Regional Coordinator, Sub-Saharan Africa: jwamai@ilawnetwork.com
- Tamar Gabisonia, ILAW Regional Coordinator, Central Asia & Europe: tgabisonia@ilawnetwork.com
Description of your organization

The Open Society Justice Initiative, a litigation and law center housed within the Open Society Foundations, strives to ensure that the law, too often an instrument of power alone, is shaped and employed in the service of justice.

Unlike the rest of the Foundations, we do not give grants; we take action in our own name. Our lawyers have represented scores of individuals and groups before domestic and international courts and tribunals around the world. These cases seek not only to vindicate individual claims, but to establish and strengthen the law’s protection for all.

Working with partners, we also document violations, propose and pilot solutions, engage policymakers, and offer assistance that draws on our global legal experience, including supporting efforts to extend access to justice to all. With offices around the world, we work in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe on a wide range of issues, including:

- national security and human rights
- citizenship and equality
- criminal justice reform
- climate justice
- combatting corruption
- protection for migrants
- economic justice
- freedom of information and expression
- international justice for grave crimes
- access to justice
- strengthening international human rights institutions.

Overview of the research topic and scope

Hundreds of billions of dollars of private and public investment are being channeled into energy, infrastructure, transportation and other projects in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America that have negative impacts on the climate, and disproportionately on marginalized populations.

Research questions:

Project 1 (2021 German Due Diligence Law):

What types of cases could be brought under Section 11 of the 2021 German Due Diligence Law, regarding extra-territorial corporate obligations? Could the German Law cover financial institutions? How strong is the law in regard to indirect suppliers? What are the main challenges and opportunities of litigation under the 2021 Law? What types of remedies and overall impact can be achieved?
Project 2 (Project financing in East Africa):
Which development projects have been the most problematic in terms of environmental and human rights’ abuses in the East African region? Who are funding those projects? What kind of legal remedies could be brought against financial institutions, supporting such projects?

Relevance of the project
This research help answer a question central to the Justice Initiative’s work on climate justice: What are the most promising avenues for litigation to hold carbon majors, high-carbon emission industries, and states responsible for the anthropogenic climate crisis? This research project offers the opportunity to apply fact and law to one of the most important issues facing your generation – climate change. It is the source of one of history’s most egregious injustices (the poor paying for the safety and comfort of the rich) and the cause of many human rights abuses, from the right to life to the right to a clean and stable environment.

The results of the research will help inform the Justice Initiative’s decision-making in setting litigation priorities and crafting legal advocacy strategies for its climate justice work for the next several years.

Links to relevant websites

Open Society Justice Initiative
Open Society Foundations

Preferences for language skills and professional experience
➢ For the project on the German law, we will give preference to researchers with German language skills.
➢ Familiarity with financial institutions and corporate accountability principles.
About
The year-long BigScience workshop (https://bigscience.huggingface.co/en/#index.md) of 500+ participants from over 40+ countries is currently researching questions surrounding large language models (capabilities, limitations, potential improvements, bias, ethics, environmental impact, role in the general AI/cognitive research landscape) as well as the legal and ethical challenges around creating and sharing such models and datasets for research purposes and among the AI research community.

Overview of the research topic(s) and scope
As part of this study, the researchers seek to create an ongoing data stewardship organization tentatively called umbrellabird.ai that promotes the rights of minority groups and marginalized people to participate in research and be fairly represented and served by language technology as public infrastructure. We seek LLM students who can assist with legal research and scholarship related to:

- linguistic fairness and equal access to and representation in technology;
- advocacy of data subjects, authors, and under-represented language speakers’ rights, including indigenous rights;
- international cooperation and dispute resolution;
- sharing of large language datasets for research;
- cross-border intellectual property including text data mining laws;
- cross-border privacy laws; and
- non-profit formation and laws, including tax laws.

1 Logo modified from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cephalopterus_penduligerIbisV1-1859-p003AA.jpg
You will be advising umbrellabird.ai & BigScience through its hosting organization the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (https://allenai.org/about) which is a 501c3 non-profit.

**Work Product**

*around 50 hours of legal research per student.*

- Targeted research memo on one of the topics above in a particular jurisdiction (e.g., EU, Africa, US, India, Japan)
- A template license
- A legal play book (see below)

**Relevance of the project(s)**

- We aim to create a playbook of legal topics and risks related to various activities related to data gathering, data governance, and disposition of an AI model trained from data.
- The project would be relevant to underserved language communities whose data will be processed (e.g., minority dual-language speakers) who wish to participate and have a stake in AI.
- The project will also benefit academic and government researchers who wish to understand how best to use AI models to provide natural language processing as infrastructure. How do we provide NLP tools to the community at large, fairly and without bias?
- Minority groups that speak target languages normally would otherwise not be able to access or afford legal assistance with respect to large technology projects. These groups are often times poor. AI researchers, especially from third-world countries would not be able to access legal advice related to their licensing and use of works of authorship of others. These researchers are often under-funded or not funded at all (see. https://www.masakhane.io/)

**Relevant websites for context**

- [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zA7ow1jfDm1DeIC7l5t_0x56dqM8Lto56752gm3mhZw/edit](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zA7ow1jfDm1DeIC7l5t_0x56dqM8Lto56752gm3mhZw/edit)
- [https://sites.google.com/huggingface.co/big-science-data-governance/](https://sites.google.com/huggingface.co/big-science-data-governance/)
- [https://bigscience.huggingface.co/](https://bigscience.huggingface.co/)
- [https://aclweb.org/aclwiki/Ethics_in_NLP](https://aclweb.org/aclwiki/Ethics_in_NLP)

**LLM student participants**

We seek LLM students with experience or interest in AI, IP, minority rights advocacy, privacy and cross border transactions. We seek in particular students who are dual-lingual as the work product should ideally be understandable to target language groups.